THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Food Corporation of India has taken action to make necessary storage space available for receiving the procured rice and will provde all possible assistance to the State Agencies in the procurement operations during Kharif Marketing Season 2004-05.

Sugar factories in Karnataka

213. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many sugar factories are there in Karnataka under various sectors/category, namely Government, private and co-operative sector;

(b) how many factories are sick or profit making;

(c) whether it is a fact that sugarcane growers of Karnataka are selling their sugarcane in the neighbouring States, like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc. where selling prices of sugarcane is high; and

(d) whether Government are planning to have a uniform price for sugarcane under the new Sugar/Agriculture policy all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As on 15.11.2004, there are 47 installed sugar factories in the State of Karnataka comprising 3 in public sector, 22 each in cooperative and private sector respectively.

(b) 12 factories in the State of Karnataka are sick which includes 6 in cooperative sector I, in public sector and 5 in private sector.

(c) Since five sugar factories in Maharashtra and one in Karnataka are covered under the Multi State Cooperative Act, a small portion of sugarcane might be procured from Maharashtra and *vice versa*.

(d) Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price(SMP) of sugarcane, linked to a basic recovery level of 8.5 per cent which is uniform for the country as a whole.